

IT'S AWESOME! IT'S EPIC! IT'S INTENSE! IT'S--

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG



Archie
COMICS

SEGA

ISSUE 256



COUNTDOWN
TO
CHAOS

THE CONCLUSION

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – A world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

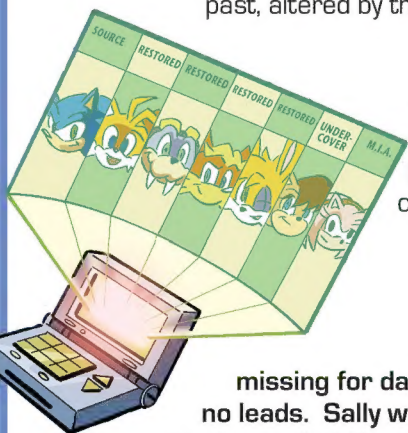
WHO'S WHO

PREVIOUSLY...



THE TEAM REUNITES! LET FREEDOM RING!

After foiling Dr. Eggman's plans, both Sonic and Eggman woke up back in their home world, but with new memories – and a new past, altered by the reality-warping Genesis Wave!



Ever since, Sonic has been reuniting his fellow freedom fighters restoring their memories and in the process restoring Nicole's fractured database. Once complete, they hope to understand what happened to their world!

Only two Freedom Fighters are missing now: Sally Acorn and Amy Rose. Amy has been

missing for days with no leads. Sally was on a mission to find the disabled Death Egg and steal crucial data. While she succeeded, Dr. Eggman discovered her, and sent Metal Sonic to ensure she didn't escape...



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
FASTEST THING ALIVE



MILES "TAILS" PROWER
SONIC'S BEST BUD



DR. EGGMAN
SONIC'S MAD SCIENTIST NEMESIS



METAL SONIC
SONIC'S EVIL ROBOTIC DOUBLE

MOBOTROPOLIS,
WESTSIDE ISLAND...

CREAM
THE RABBIT
YOUNG FLYER

CHEESE
DEVOTED CHAO
CHAMPION

MISS
BLAZE DID
IT! WE'RE
HOME!*

AMY ROSE
THE HAMMER

WE
SURE ARE!
I BET SONIC
MISSED
ME...

FWA-WHOOSH!

HE
BETTER
HAVE
MISSED
ME...

BEAN THE DUCK
DYNAMITE
MERCENARY

BARK
THE POLAR BEAR
SILENT PARTNER

*"PIRATE PLUNDER PANIC"
--SU# 55-58.

OH,
GOODNESS!
I BET MOTHER
IS WORRIED
SICK!

DON'T WORRY,
CREAM. WE'RE BACK,
WE'RE SAFE, AND
WE'LL TELL HER ALL
ABOUT OUR ADVENTURES
OVER TEA
LIKE ALWAYS.

OOH!

WILL THERE BE
CRIMPETS? TEA
BISCUITS?

SCONES?!



SKYOW!

FINE! NO
SCONES, THEN.
SHEESH!

CRASH!

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COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS
FINALE: THE PRINCESS AND THE HAMMER



C'MON...
C'MON...

SALLY?!

CLANG!

**SALLY ACORN
THE PRINCESS**

AMY! OH,
THANK GOODNESS!
I DIDN'T THINK MY
DISTRSS SIGNAL
GOT OUT! METAL
SONIC'S RIGHT
ON MY--

--TAIL!

**METAL SONIC
KILLER ROBOT**



ALTHOUGH--NO OFFENSE--I WISH YOU'D BROUGHT MORE BACK-UP, CONSIDERING...

ROBOT OR HEDGEHOG, I CAN HANDLE ANY SONIC!

SHING!

PIKO!

MISTER BEAN!
MISTER BARK!
WE COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP RIGHT NOW!

YOU SURE COULD! HOW MUCH MONEY YOU GOT ON YA?

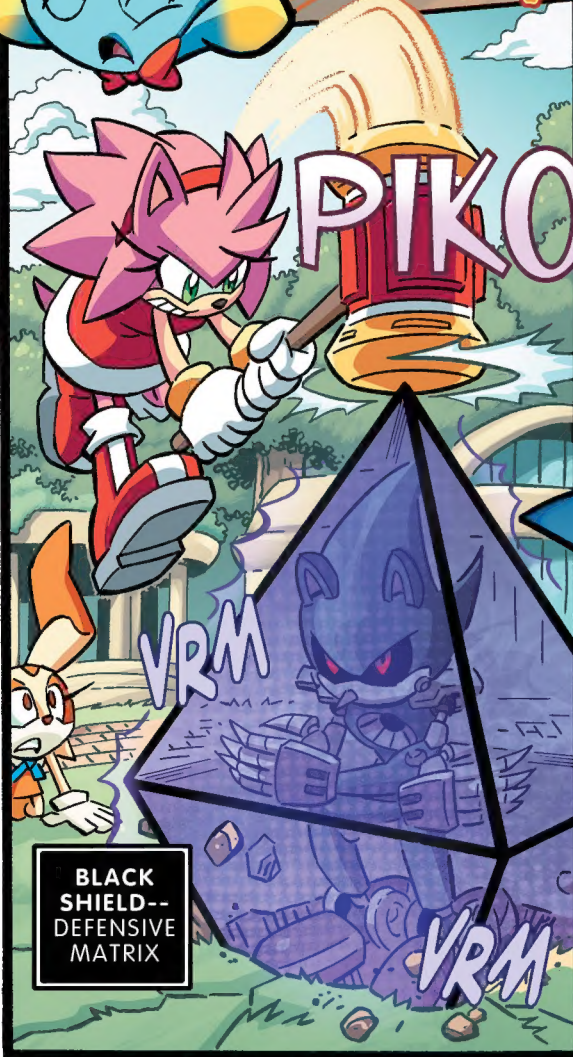
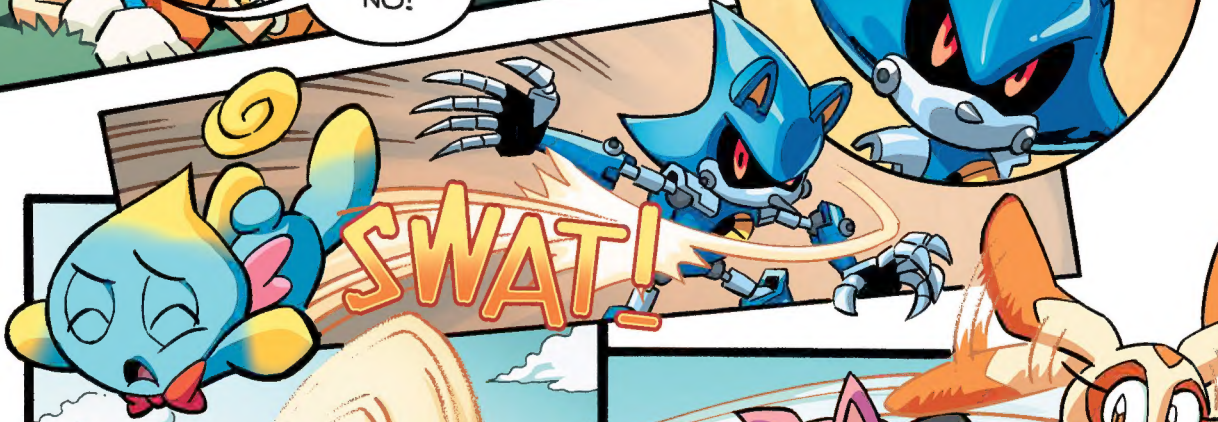
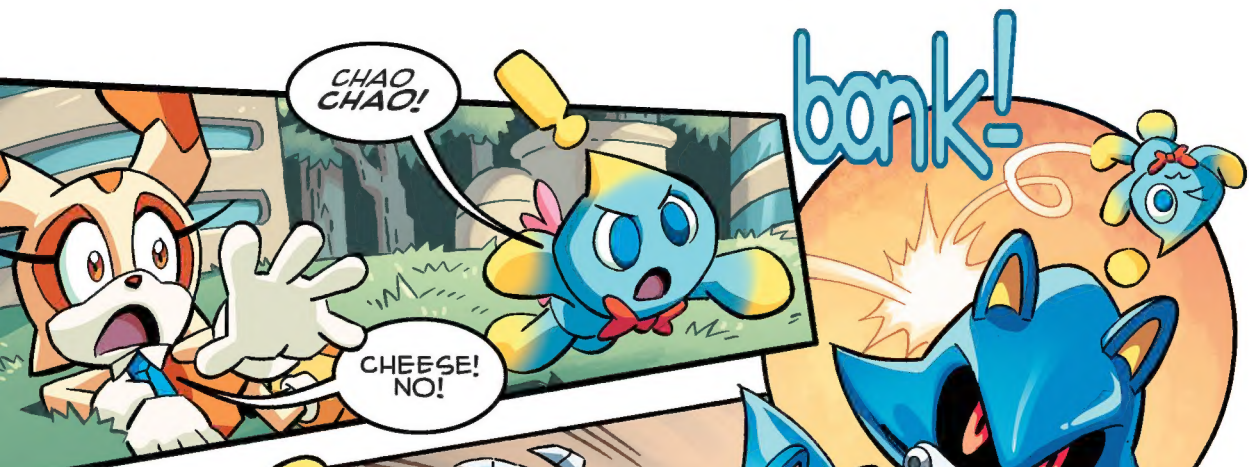
N-NONE, B-BUT...

SORRY, KIDDO!
ONLY ONE PRO BONO ADVENTURE PER VISIT! (AND I THINK WE'RE WANTED CRIMINALS HERE.) TOODLES!

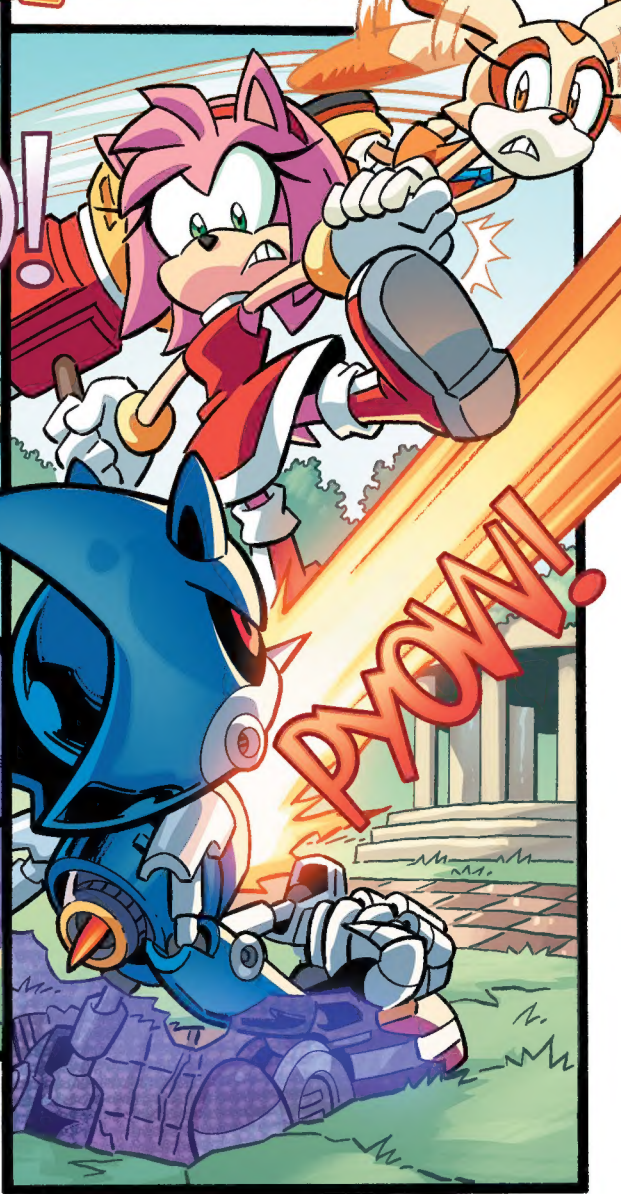
BUT... BUT... YOU'RE SO MEAN!

EEK!

YURIP!

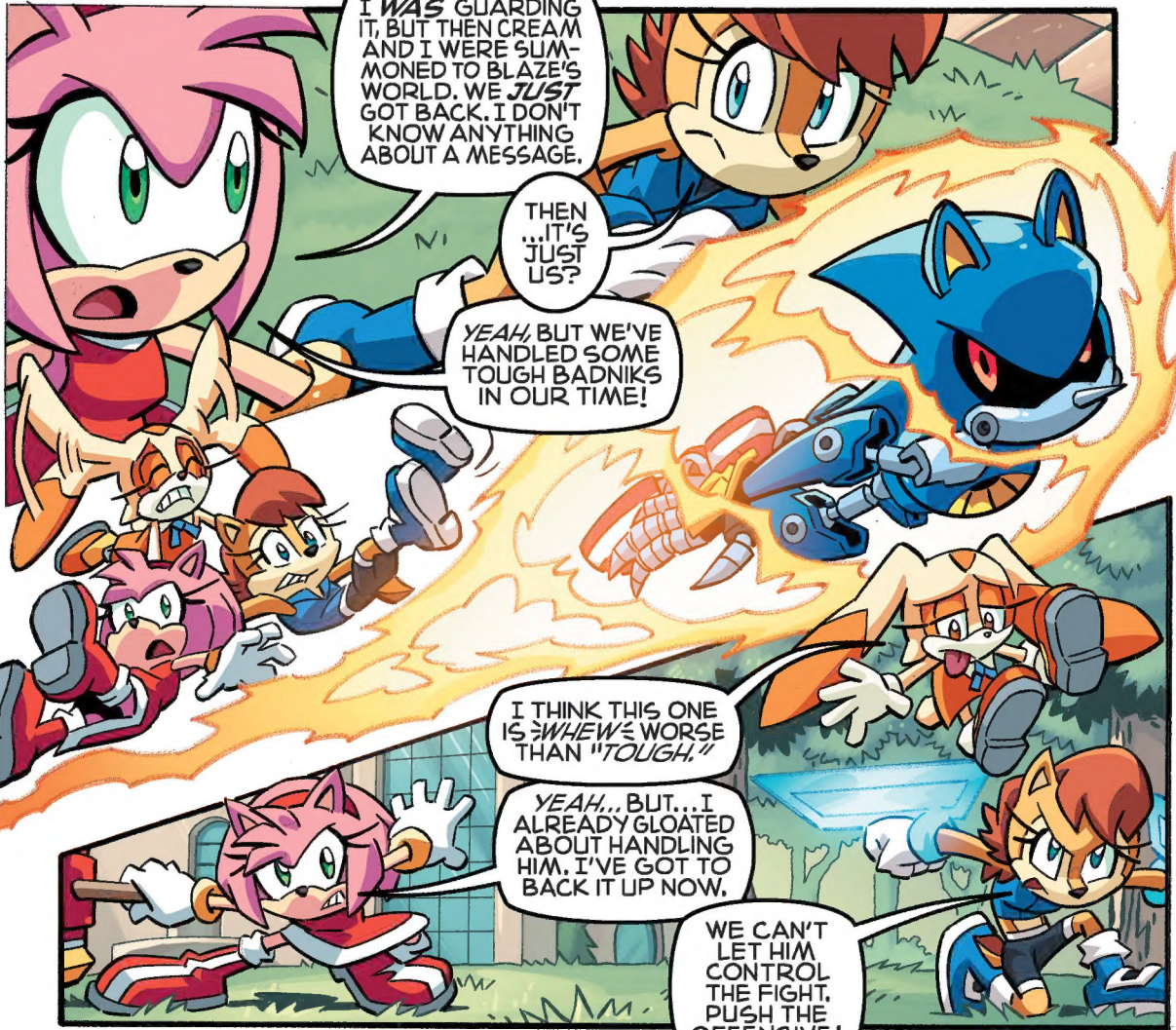
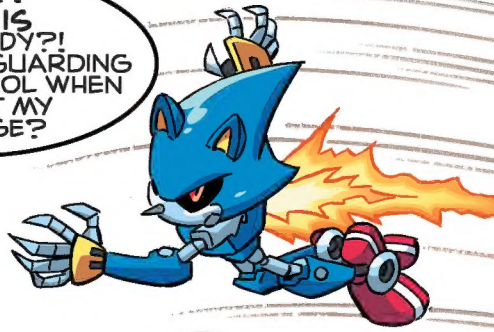


BLACK SHIELD--
DEFENSIVE
MATRIX





AMY?!
WHERE IS
EVERYBODY?!
WEREN'T YOU GUARDING
THE SKY PATROL WHEN
YOU GOT MY
MESSAGE?



I *WAS* GUARDING
IT, BUT THEN CREAM
AND I WERE SUM-
MONED TO BLAZE'S
WORLD. WE *JUST*
GOT BACK. I DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT A MESSAGE.

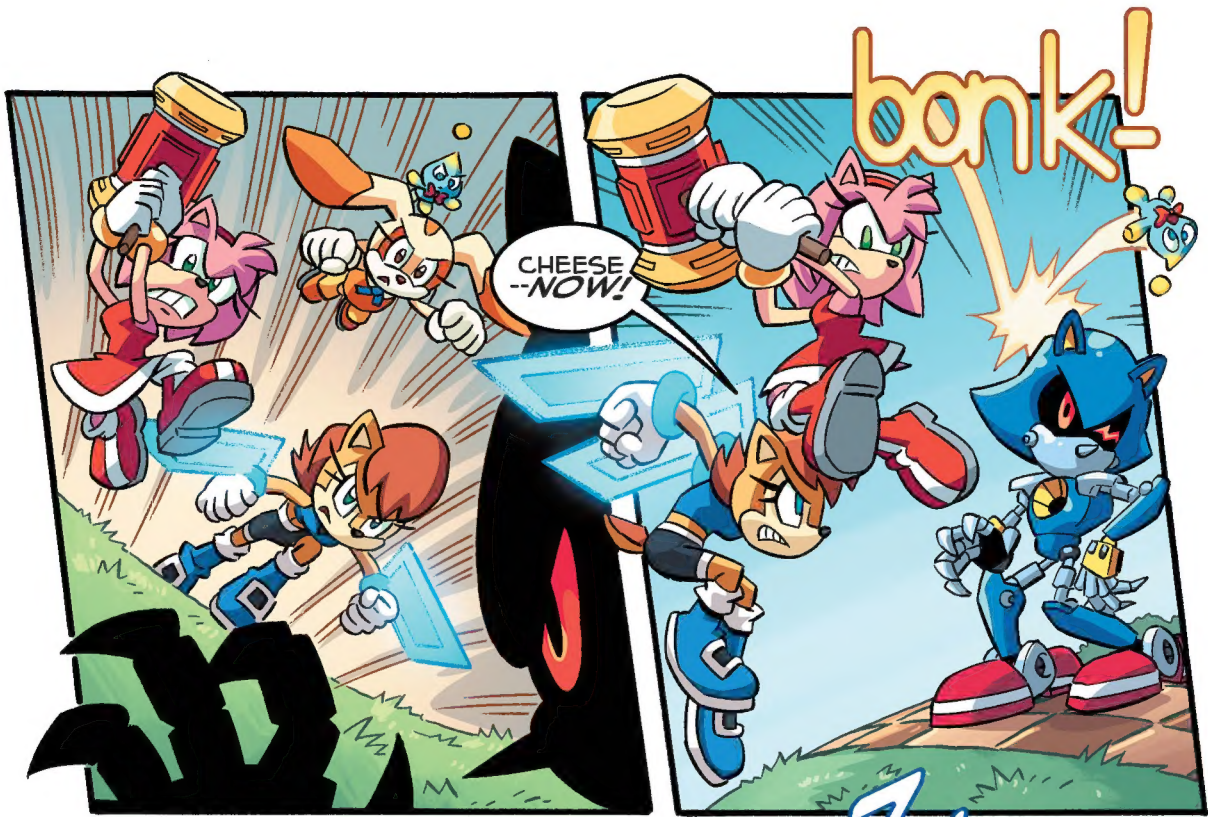
THEN
...IT'S
JUST
US?

YEAH, BUT WE'VE
HANDLED SOME
TOUGH BADNIKS
IN OUR TIME!

I THINK THIS ONE
IS *WHEW*'S WORSE
THAN "TOUGH."

YEAH... BUT... I
ALREADY GLOATED
ABOUT HANDLING
HIM. I'VE GOT TO
BACK IT UP NOW.

WE CAN'T
LET HIM
CONTROL
THE FIGHT.
PUSH THE
OFFENSIVE!



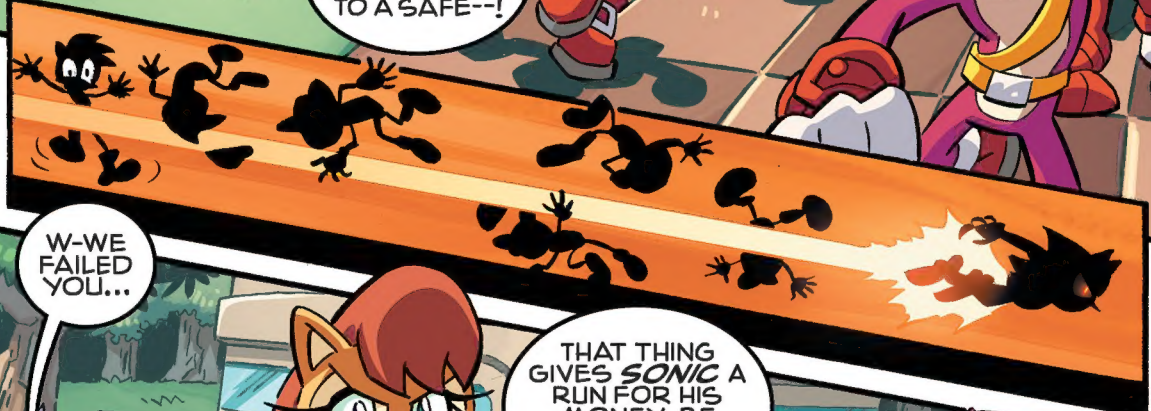
BURST
SHIELD--
JOINT
MATRIX





GET BACK, YOUR HIGHNESS! WE'LL HANDLE THIS!

NO! FOCUS ON GETTING THE CITIZENS TO A SAFE--!



W-WE FAILED YOU...

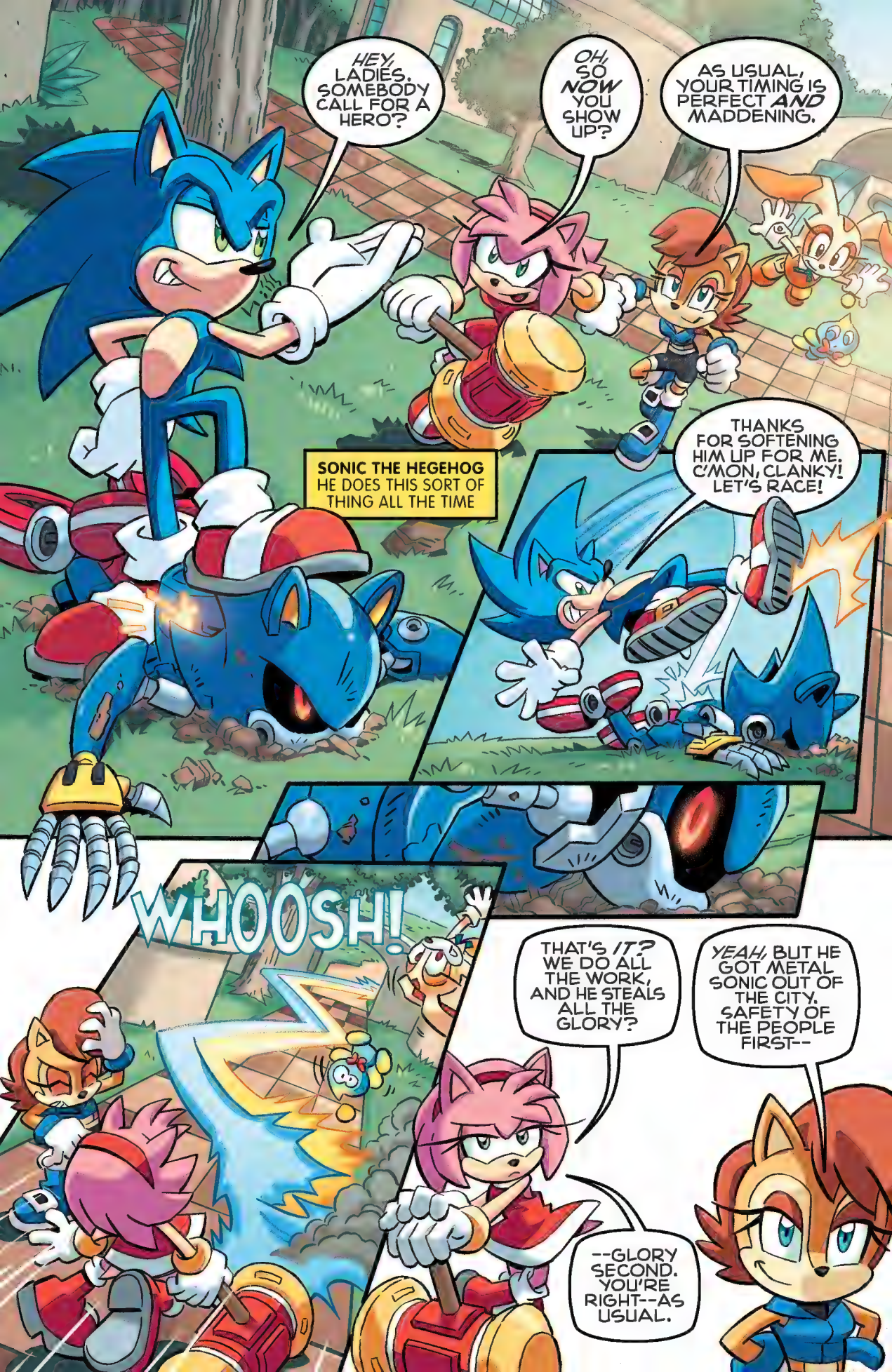
THAT THING GIVES SONIC A RUN FOR HIS MONEY. BE HAPPY YOU'RE ALIVE.

SO... YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A DISTRESS SIGNAL?

I SENT ONE TO THE SKY PATROL ONCE I KNEW METAL SONIC WAS AFTER ME. IF WE WERE GETTING BACK-UP, IT'D BE HERE BY--



WHAM!



HEY, LADIES, SOMEBODY CALL FOR A HERO?

OH, SO NOW YOU SHOW UP?

AS USUAL, YOUR TIMING IS PERFECT AND MADDENING.

SONIC THE HEGEHOG
HE DOES THIS SORT OF THING ALL THE TIME

THANKS FOR SOFTENING HIM UP FOR ME. C'MON, CLANKY! LET'S RACE!

WHOOSH!

THAT'S IT? WE DO ALL THE WORK, AND HE STEALS ALL THE GLORY?

YEAH, BUT HE GOT METAL SONIC OUT OF THE CITY, SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE FIRST--

--GLORY SECOND. YOU'RE RIGHT--AS USUAL.

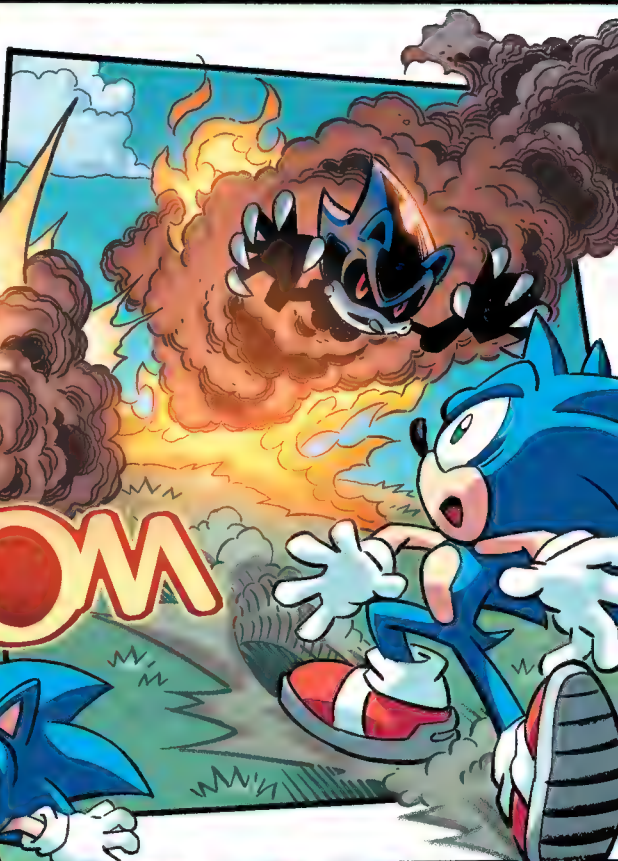
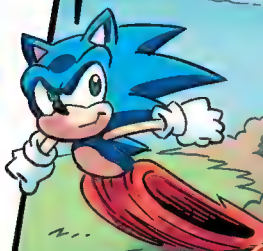
YOU HAVIN' TROUBLE KEEPING PACE? DID THOSE MEANIES PLAY TOO ROUGH WITH YOU?

DAMAGE IS NOMINAL. I AM STILL FASTER.



EHH--MAYBE, MAYBE NOT. TODAY, I DON'T REALLY CARE. I'M JUST THE DISTRACTION...

...WHILE TAILS GETS A MISSILE LOCK.



WHA-BOOM

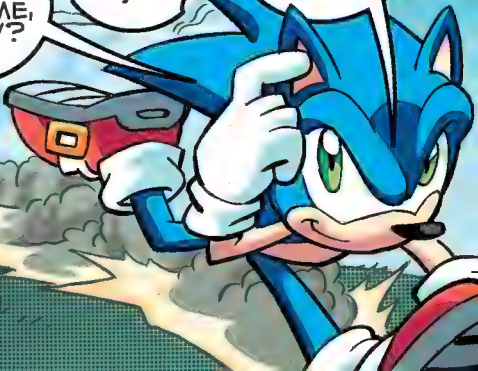
FOR NOW, LET'S HURRY BACK TO THE CITY AND CHECK IN ON EVERYBODY.

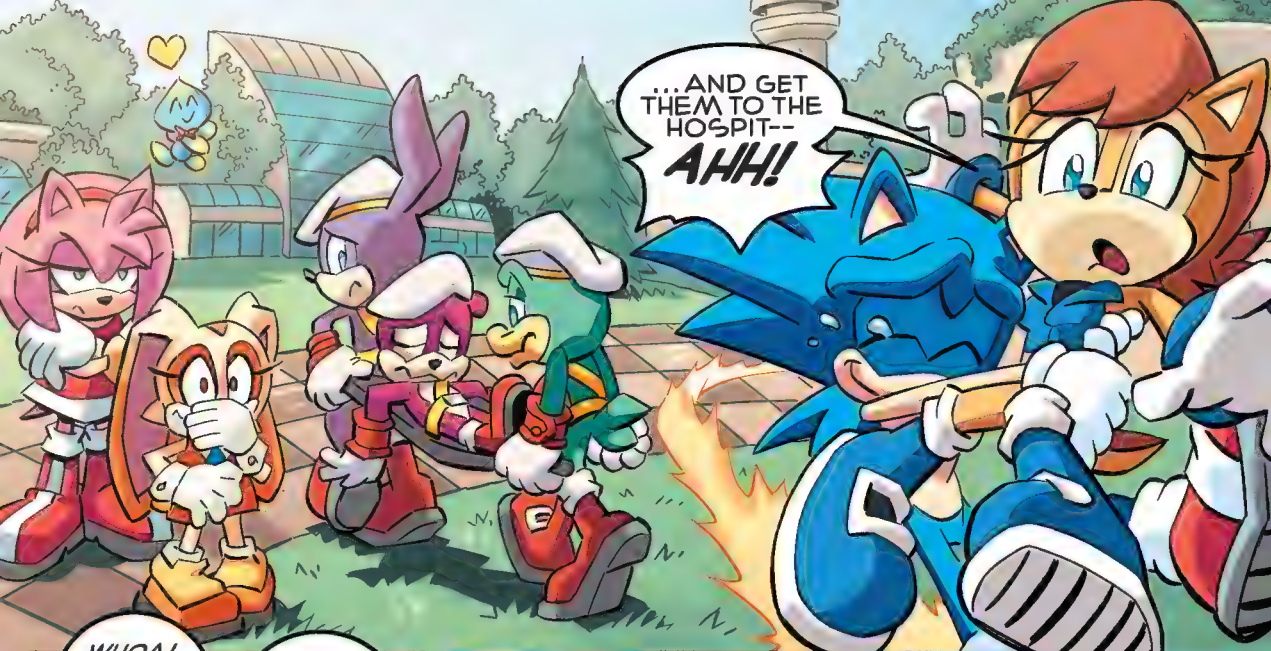
TAILS! YOU READ ME, BUDDY?

YUPI! IS HE DOWN?

YOU KEEP SAYING THAT, CRAWL ON BACK TO EGGMAN. I'VE GOT BIGGER THINGS TO HANDLE TODAY THAN YOU.

I-ZZT< WILL SURPASS YOU...





...AND GET THEM TO THE HOSPIT--
AHH!



WHOA!
WHAT'S
GOTTEN
INTO YOU
?

I JUST...
YOU LOOK
GOOD, SAL.
I MISSED
YOU.

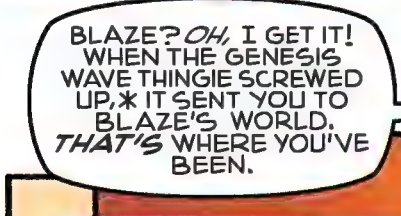


→AHEM←



AND I WAS
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU.
WHERE DID
YOU DIS-
APPEAR TO?

OH! I...
WELL...WE
WERE...
BLAZE
SAYS HI!



BLAZE? OH, I GET IT!
WHEN THE GENESIS
WAVE THINGIE SCREWED
UP, * IT SENT YOU TO
BLAZE'S WORLD.
THAT'S WHERE YOU'VE
BEEN.

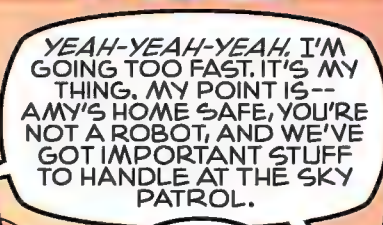


YEAH, WE
...GENESIS-
WHAT?

*STH#251.



SONIC...YOU'RE
MAKING LESS
SENSE THAN USUAL.



YEAH-YEAH-YEAH, I'M
GOING TOO FAST. IT'S MY
THING. MY POINT IS--
AMY'S HOME SAFE, YOU'RE
NOT A ROBOT, AND WE'VE
GOT IMPORTANT STUFF
TO HANDLE AT THE SKY
PATROL.

"NOT A
ROBOT?!"

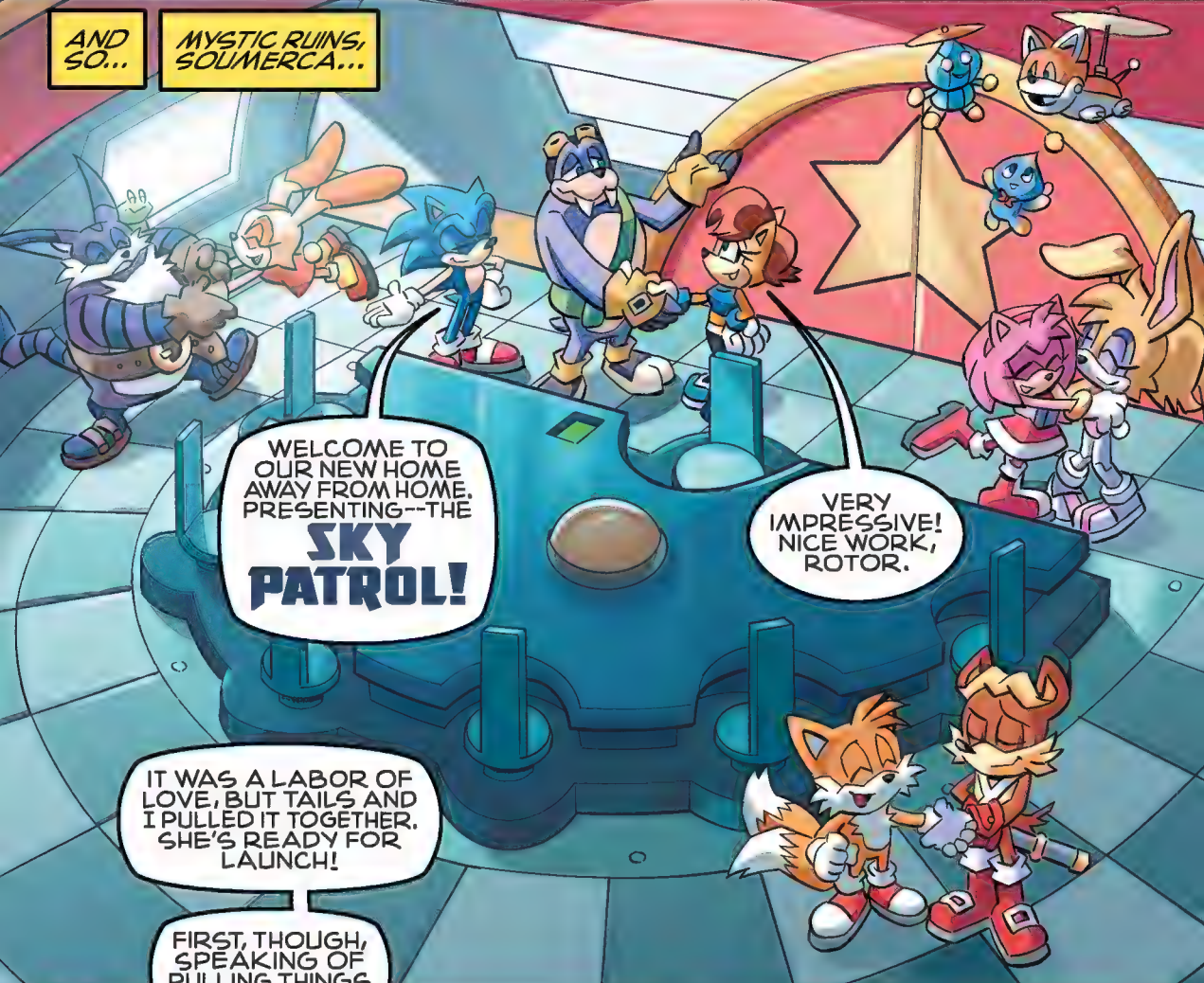
BUT OUR
FIRST STOP...



"...IS TO
CHECK IN
WITH THE
KING."

AND SO...

MYSTIC RUINS, SOLIMERCA...



WELCOME TO OUR NEW HOME AWAY FROM HOME. PRESENTING--THE **SKY PATROL!**

VERY IMPRESSIVE! NICE WORK, ROTOR.

IT WAS A LABOR OF LOVE, BUT TAILS AND I PULLED IT TOGETHER. SHE'S READY FOR LAUNCH!

FIRST, THOUGH, SPEAKING OF PULLING THINGS TOGETHER...

RIGHT.

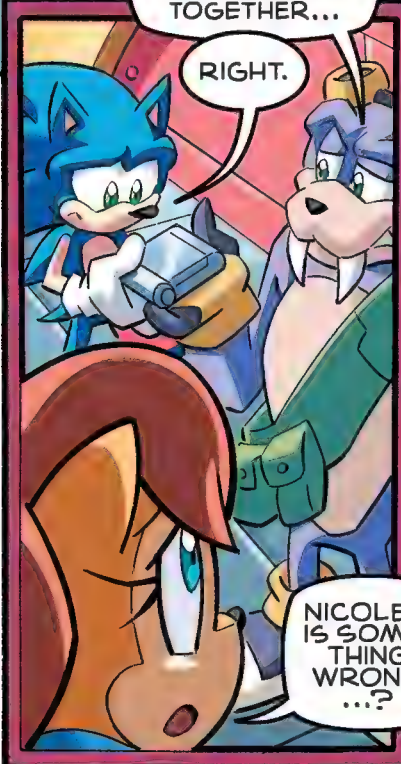
LONG STORY, SAL. YOU'LL GET UP TO DATE ...PRETTY QUICK. NICOLE-- DO YOU THINK YOU CAN RE-STORE THEM BOTH?

NICOLE? IS SOMETHING WRONG ...?

MAYBE. I'LL HAVE TO SHARE THE CIRCUIT WITH BOTH OF THEM SIMULTANEOUSLY. AFTER THAT, THE GENESIS WAVE ENERGY WILL BE SPENT.

OKAY, AMY! SAL! QUICK STORY TIME BEFORE WE TRY TO SAVE THE WORLD.

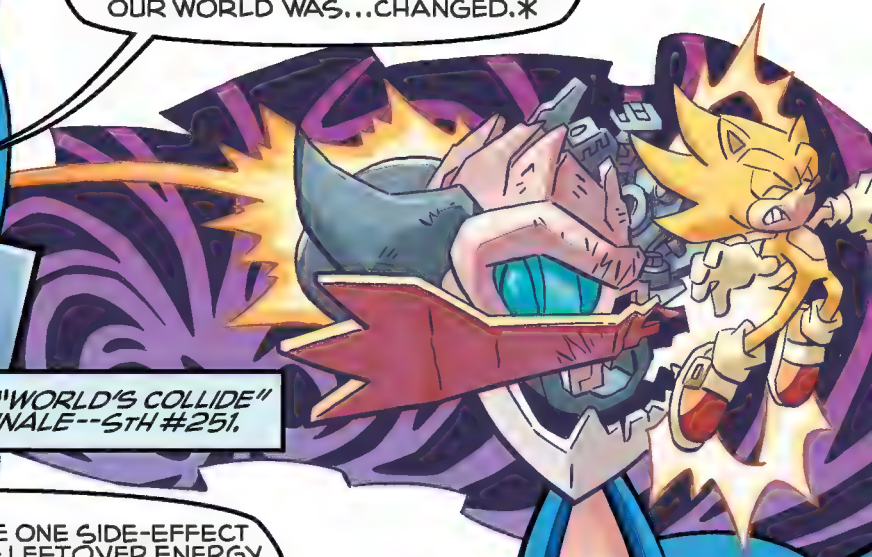
SAVE THE WORLD? WHAT'S GONE WRONG NOW?





YOU'RE NOT GONNA REMEMBER THIS, BUT...TO PUT IT *REALLY* SIMPLY, EGGMAN TRIED REWRITING REALITY WITH SOMETHING CALLED THE *GENESIS WAVE*. I TRIED TO FIX THINGS, HE GOT IN MY WAY, AND OUR WORLD WAS...CHANGED.*

*"WORLD'S COLLIDE" FINALE--STH #25!



ANYWAY, IT LOOKS LIKE ONE SIDE-EFFECT WAS THAT SOME OF THE LEFTOVER ENERGY FROM THE WAVE GOT TRANSFERRED TO NICOLE, WHICH THREW HER SYSTEMS OUT OF WHACK. BUT WHEN SHE TRANSFERS THAT ENERGY TO US, IT FIXES HER A BIT, AND WE ...WELL, WE REMEMBER, HOW THE WORLD USED TO BE.



WHOA... A WHOLE DIFFERENT LIFE?

BETWEEN THE SPECIAL ZONE AND OUR INTERACTIONS WITH BLAZE AND SILVER, ALTERNATE TIMELINES SEEM LOGICAL ENOUGH. WHAT HAPPENS ONCE WE RESTORE YOUR DATABASE?



I'M HOPING I'LL BE ABLE TO ANALYZE EVERYTHING AND FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR WORLD.



Y'ALL NEED TO BRACE YOURSELVES, THO'. IT'S A JARRIN' EXPERIENCE BY ITSELF, BUT THIS OTHER LIFE... THINGS WERE SO *DIFFERENT*, SALLY-GIRL. AND YOU...

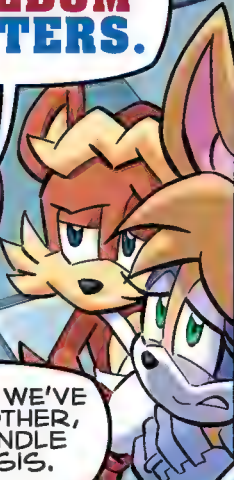
NOW, HOLD ON. IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO TALK US OUT OF THIS. IF THIS RESTORES NICOLE, THEN THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT GOING FORWARD. IF THE FATE OF THE WORLD IS INVOLVED, THAT'S DOUBLY TRUE.



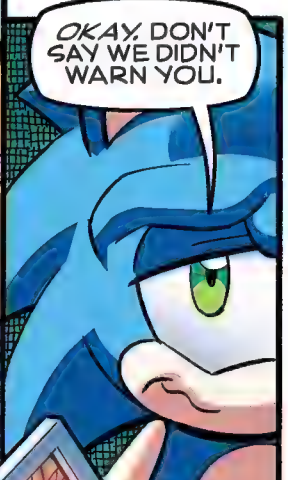
GIVEN EVERYTHING SONIC'S SAID, IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE TO SAVE EVERYONE. BUT I CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT ALL OF YOU.

LIKE YOU'VE GOTTA ASK! WE'RE THE **FREEDOM FIGHTERS**.

OKAY, DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU.



AS LONG AS WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER, WE CAN HANDLE ANY CRISIS.

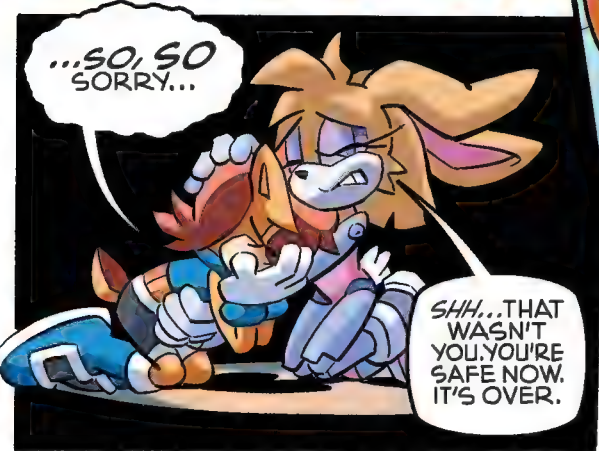


READY FOR THIS?

WHO KNOWS? LET'S JUST GET IT OVER WITH.

ALL RIGHT, FOR NICOLE, AND FOR THE WORLD.





VREEEE!



TAKE IT EASY, NICOLE. WHAT'S THE RUSH?



THIS IS... FAR WORSE THAN I ANTICIPATED. ANALYZING WHAT I NOW KNOW ABOUT THE DUAL REALITIES, I'VE FOUND IT WASN'T JUST THE PLANET THAT WAS AFFECTED ...NOT JUST OUR REALITY.

THE ENTIRE MULTI-VERSE COLLAPSED IN UPON ITSELF.

ABOARD THE DEATH EGG...

THE RESULTS ARE CLEAR. EVERY FACET OF REALITY FELL IN ON ITSELF AND WAS THEN **RECREATED**. EVEN OUR MOLECULAR MAKE-UP WAS CHANGED TO MATCH OUR NEW HISTORIES, THANKS TO MY FAILED SUPER GENESIS WAVE.

AND SUPER SONIC'S CHAOS CONTROL, WHICH YOU INTERRUPTED.

YES. YOU **KEEP** REMINDING ME OF THAT.

SO...IS THAT A GOOD THING OR A BAD THING?

WE CAME OUT FINE, SO WE DODGED QUITE THE METAPHORICAL BULLET!

ONLY TO JUMP IN FRONT OF A METAPHORICAL CANNON! WHEN I FIRST USED THE GENESIS WAVE, IT WAS ON **JUST** THIS PLANET, AND THOSE ENERGIES NEARLY DESTROYED IT. * THIS TIME...

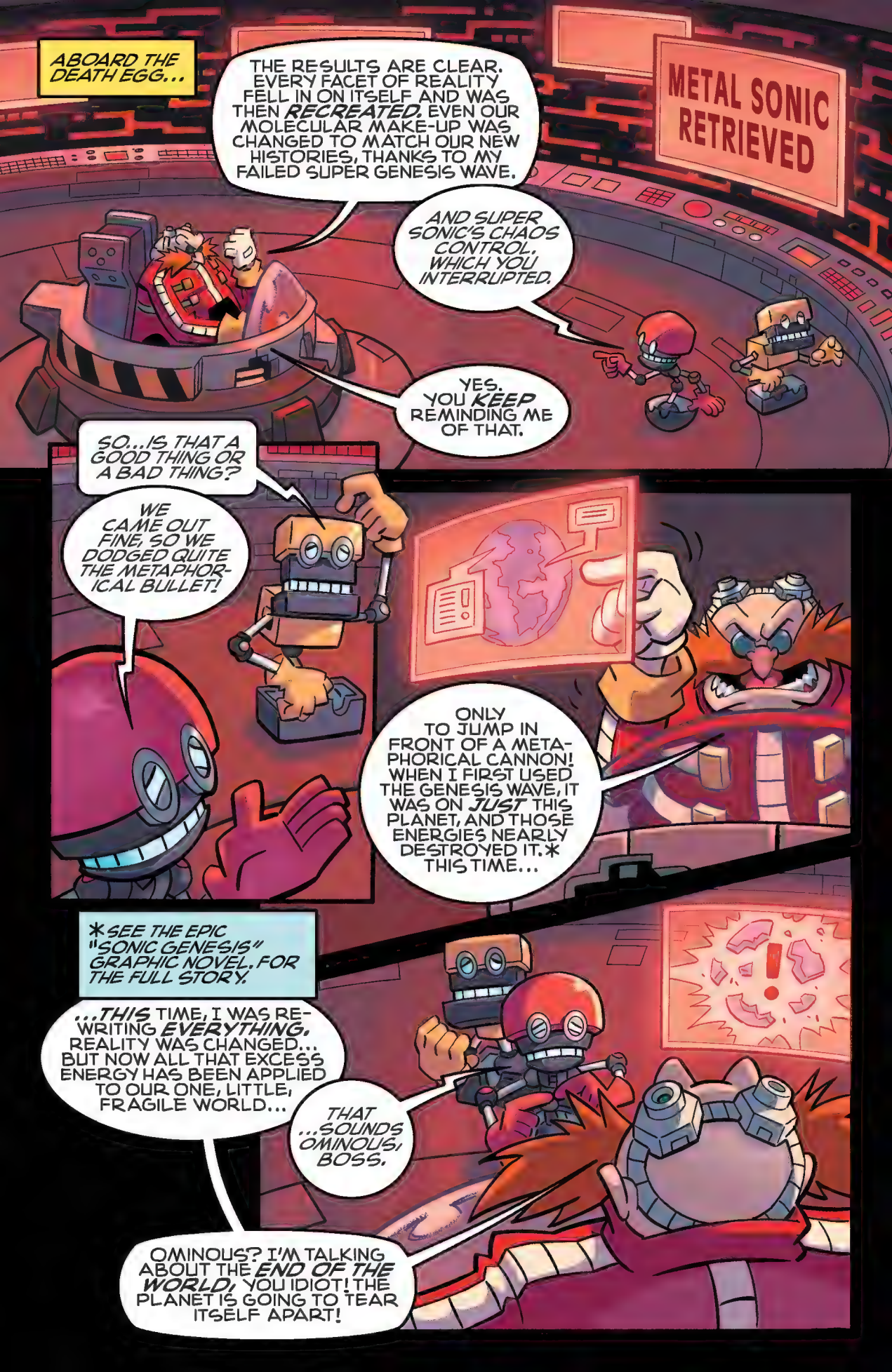
* SEE THE EPIC "SONIC GENESIS" GRAPHIC NOVEL FOR THE FULL STORY.

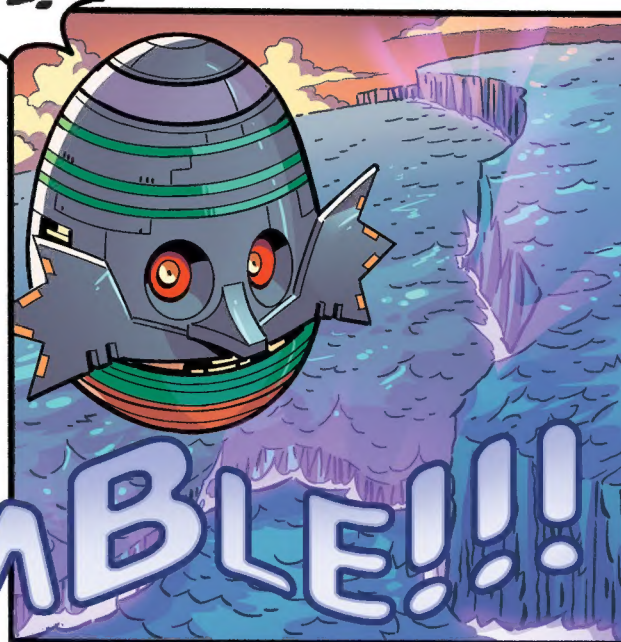
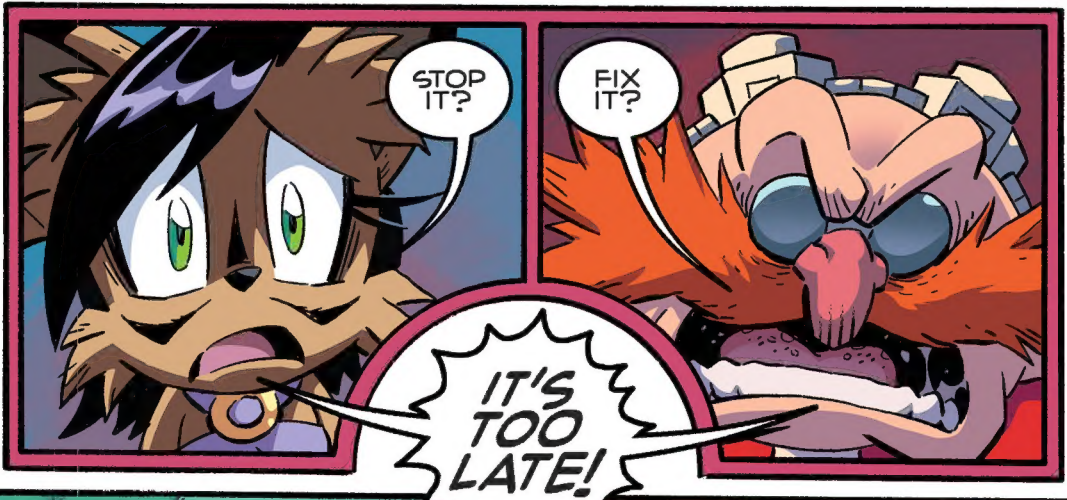
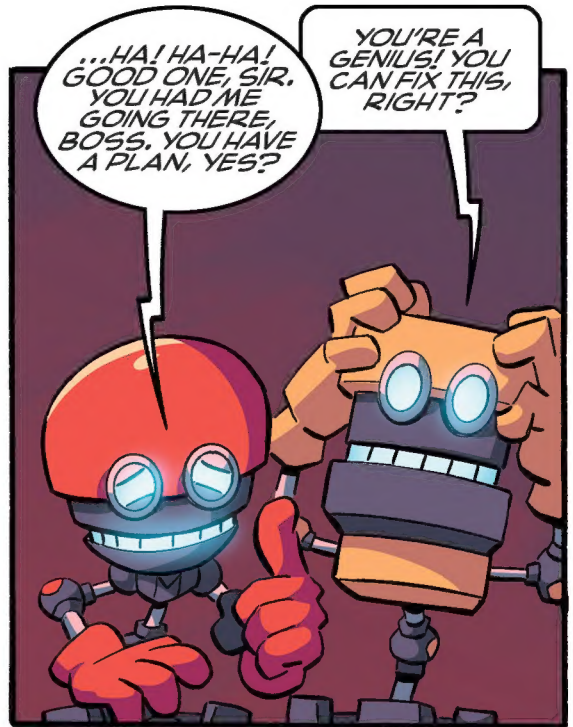
...THIS TIME, I WAS RE-WRITING **EVERYTHING**. REALITY WAS CHANGED... BUT NOW ALL THAT EXCESS ENERGY HAS BEEN APPLIED TO OUR ONE, LITTLE, FRAGILE WORLD...

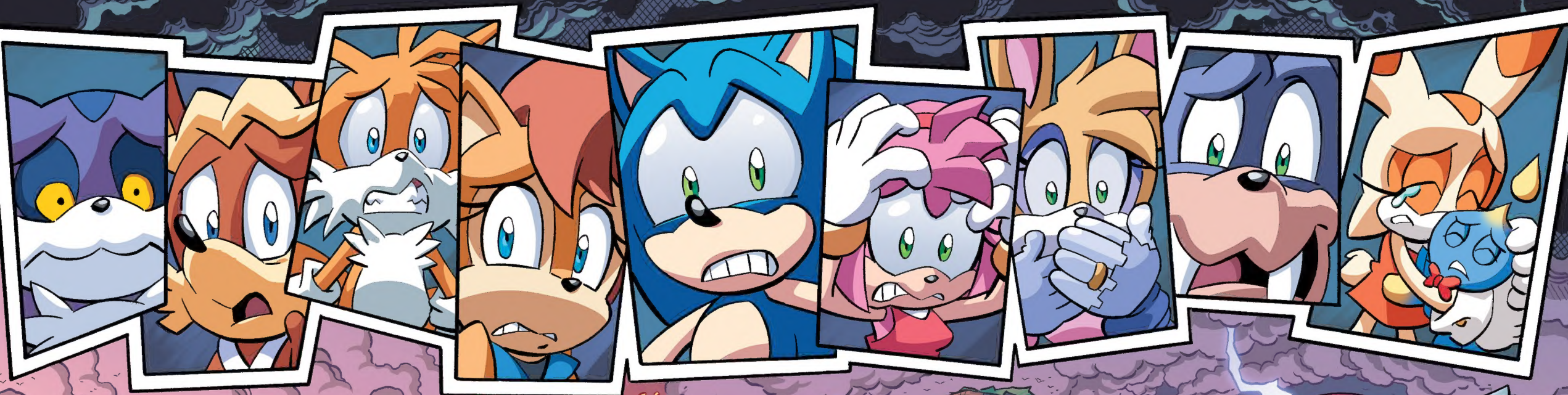
THAT ...SOUNDS OMINOUS, BOSS.

OMINOUS? I'M TALKING ABOUT THE **END OF THE WORLD**, YOU IDIOT! THE PLANET IS GOING TO TEAR ITSELF APART!

METAL SONIC RETRIEVED

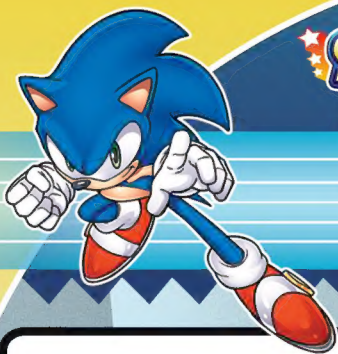






IS THIS THE END?

Or only just the beginning?
You've met the new
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
--now watch as they're
put to the test!
You simply can't miss all
the action and adventure
coming atcha **NEXT ISH!**
See you in thirty!



SONIC-GRAMS

FAN ART



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HEY, KIDS!

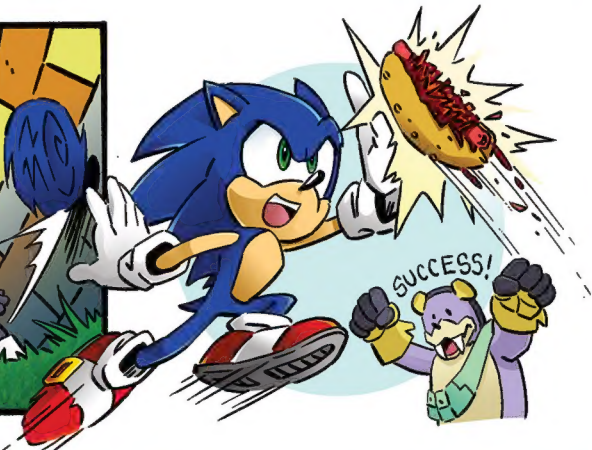
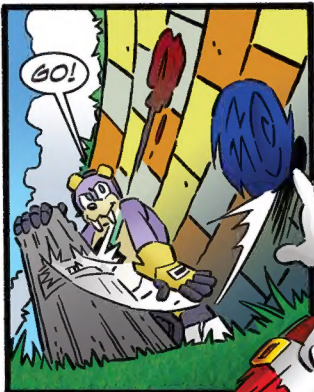
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OFF PANEL

SCRIPT: TYLER CAPPS PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN COLORS: ALEAH BAKER





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SONIC-GRAMS

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Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

Hi, I'm Jamie. I love your Sonic the Hedgehog comics and I think that Countdown to Chaos is so awesome!!! I want to ask some questions.

What did you think of that EPIC ending? The chaos is just beginning so keep following the story, you won't wanna miss it! Oh, and you will be having the usual!

What can I do to make myself a better comic artist?

Draw everyday, especially from life! Great cartooning and illustrating starts only after you get a good sense of how everything appears in reality. Also, take a lot of art classes. Some colleges offer specific comic illustrating courses, check them out!

What does a penciller do?

The penciller is responsible for illustrating the story. The pencils should be tight and precise so that the inker knows where to add the shading and depth that give the pencilled images more definition. If the lines were sketchy, the inker would not know where to ink!

How can I catch up with the story without going on the Sonic/Archie app?

Although the app is most likely the fastest way to catch up, the Sonic Archives, Sonic Saga Series, and Sonic Universe graphic novels are some of the best options if you prefer paper over digital. For more information on these series checkout the Sonic Graphic Novel Library coupon in this issue!

I went by my favorite comic shop and found Best of Sonic the Hedgehog: Villains, what can I expect from it?

The Best of Sonic the Hedgehog: Villains is a collector's hard cover graphic novel featuring stories focused on the best of Sonic's worst enemies!

You guys are amazing, how can I get my letter into Sonic the Hedgehog? Please Please Please Please Pleeeeease put this letter in the comic!!!

Sincerely, Scourge's biggest fan, Jamie! sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the praise and the letter, Jamie! As you may have realized, saying please five times can sometimes do the trick! Keep drawing and be sure to stay right here with Sonic the Hedgehog!

See y'all next month for an exciting rescue story, DAMAGE CONTROL!

COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #256



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WITH PHYLLIS NOVIN & DUSTIN EVANS

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SONIC UNIVERSE

ISSUE 60

SONIC'S DARK DOPPLEGANGER GOES BAD IN...

SHADOW FALL

PART 2 OF 4



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IN STORES 1.22.14

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